

## Shortgrass Residents Expected To Recover From Holidays By July 15

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MERTZON — The 1966 Christmas frolic is gradually fading from the Shortgrass Country. According to local authorities the majority of the populace is too weak to jingle one more bell or yodel one more verse of Silent Night. Earlobes have fevered and burst, lungs have begun working in reverse, and the most optimistic of medical experts are predicting that the next five days will be crucial in telling whether the eternally thin line of human habitation will be maintained.

The whole citizenry is enshrouded by a loss of the will to survive. The weak of heart have already taken to their beds; the strong are making what, at best, could be termed a sub-rally.

The most dramatic problem is a post-Christmas outbreak of an ailment affecting the lower limbs. Never before have so many women been seen hobbling and crippling along the streets. Doctors say this painful disorder will continue as long as the mothers and grandmothers are forced to wade through the toys strewn about their houses. The end is nowhere in sight.

And, as is normal for the season, the dreadful “appetizer disease” is cropping up in all principal outposts of the area. The Peanut Founder Plague has been the leading disabler thus far. However, the frightful intestinal rash produced by cream cheese dips, and the awful malignant colic stemming from shell fish and horse radish have taken their toll.

For the first time, research outfits are discovering that abuse of the nibbling glands will produce the same symptoms as the above mentioned illnesses. They have also found that the characteristics of over-taxed nibbling glands are identical to those of fruit cake ptomaine, which was once considered extremely dangerous. Recent findings show that exertion of nibbling glands result in production of a toxic secretion that, in comparison, makes excruciating heartburn seem no worse than hair lick trouble.

Regardless of this new break-through the afflicted are still being advised to use the time tested remedy of limiting their holiday nocturnal pursuits so they will at least get in a nap before breakfast; and to restrict their diets to the same menu prescribed for premature babies.

Another malady that is threatening the people is an illness which is often confused with the withdrawal symptoms of beverage alcohol — the fierce glazed-eyeball disorder.

Even before Christmas, this far-reaching optic trouble was rampant in the area. Headaches, indigestion, throbbing nerves and dehydrated-liver burn were the usual accompaniments of the disease. Until medical workers found the cause, short-sighted thinkers were blaming all this trouble on over-indulgence in alcohol itself. But by mid-December it was officially announced that the ailment was the direct result of glare from punch bowls, flashback from punches and nogs plus the ever-present sparkle of cocktail glasses.

After that, treating the wretched illness was relatively easy. Sufferers were advised to get plenty of bed rest, drink ample quantities of non-alcoholic beverages, and make early plans to spend next Christmas in a Tibetan monastery or on a distant atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Up to now, patients are making an astounding recover from the blight.

In reality, this report is a bit overdrawn. Laymen and doctors alike know that it will take more than a few days to wipe out the tenacious breed of men who live here. At the worst, the course of this crisis should be arrested by July. Then the Shortgrass country can blossom forth again into its former dusty self.